

# NORTH CAROLINA SYMPHONY

Grant Llewellyn, *Music Director*



WHAT MAKES  
**MUSIC,**  
**MUSIC**

2017-18

MADE POSSIBLE BY



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Sponsors are current as of June 2017

## INTRODUCTION



### FEATURED WORK

*Slavonic Dance,  
Op. 26, No. 8*

### FUN FACTS

- He was a friend of Tchaikovsky.
- The notoriously hard to impress Johannes Brahms thought that Dvořák had more talent than Wagner and himself combined.
- Dvořák was a legend in his homeland and an international star during his lifetime.

## ANTONÍN DVOŘÁK

**BORN** September 8, 1841, Nelahozeves, Czech Republic  
**DIED** May 1, 1904, Prague, Czech Republic

### BIOGRAPHY

As a young boy, Dvořák learned to play the violin. His father wanted Dvořák to be a businessman and sent his son to live with an uncle in Zlonice, Germany to study. While there he found an excellent music teacher who taught him to play piano and organ. His teacher and uncle recognized his musical ability and begged his father to allow him to go to Prague to study music. Dvořák was an excellent student. When he finished school he was given a job playing for the national opera under the direction of Smetana. It was at this time he decided he wanted to become a composer. In 1873 he met composer Johannes Brahms, who persuaded his publisher to print Dvořák's Slavonic Dances. The pieces brought him fame all over Europe. Dvořák was shy and his new-found fame made him uncomfortable. He preferred the privacy of the country to busy city life. Dvořák traveled to America in 1892 to teach in New York. While there he became interested in American folk music. Native-American and African-American music influenced much of his writing. Although he was making a salary of \$15,000 a year (a large sum of money for that time), he was homesick and returned to his homeland after three years.

# LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN

**BORN** December 16, 1770, Bonn, Germany  
**DIED** March 26, 1827, Vienna, Austria

## BIOGRAPHY

Beethoven began his musical schooling when he was a small child. Both his father and grandfather were musicians at the Court of the Elector of Cologne, which was based in Beethoven's hometown of Bonn. Although Ludwig's father began his son's musical education, it was clear that the boy had surpassed his father's abilities by the age of nine. By age 12, Beethoven had composed his first work of music. In his young adult life, Ludwig worked as a conductor and organist for the court band. Like many other composers, Beethoven traveled to Vienna, Austria to find inspiration. Here, he played for famous musicians such as Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Joseph Haydn, who later became some of his mentors. Beethoven was very restless, always jumping from one composition to another. His musical ideas frequently became fused together in the chaos, creating some of his most memorable works. As an adult, he began to lose his hearing. Although this loss was devastating, he continued to compose for nearly 25 more years until he died of pneumonia in 1827.

## FEATURED WORK

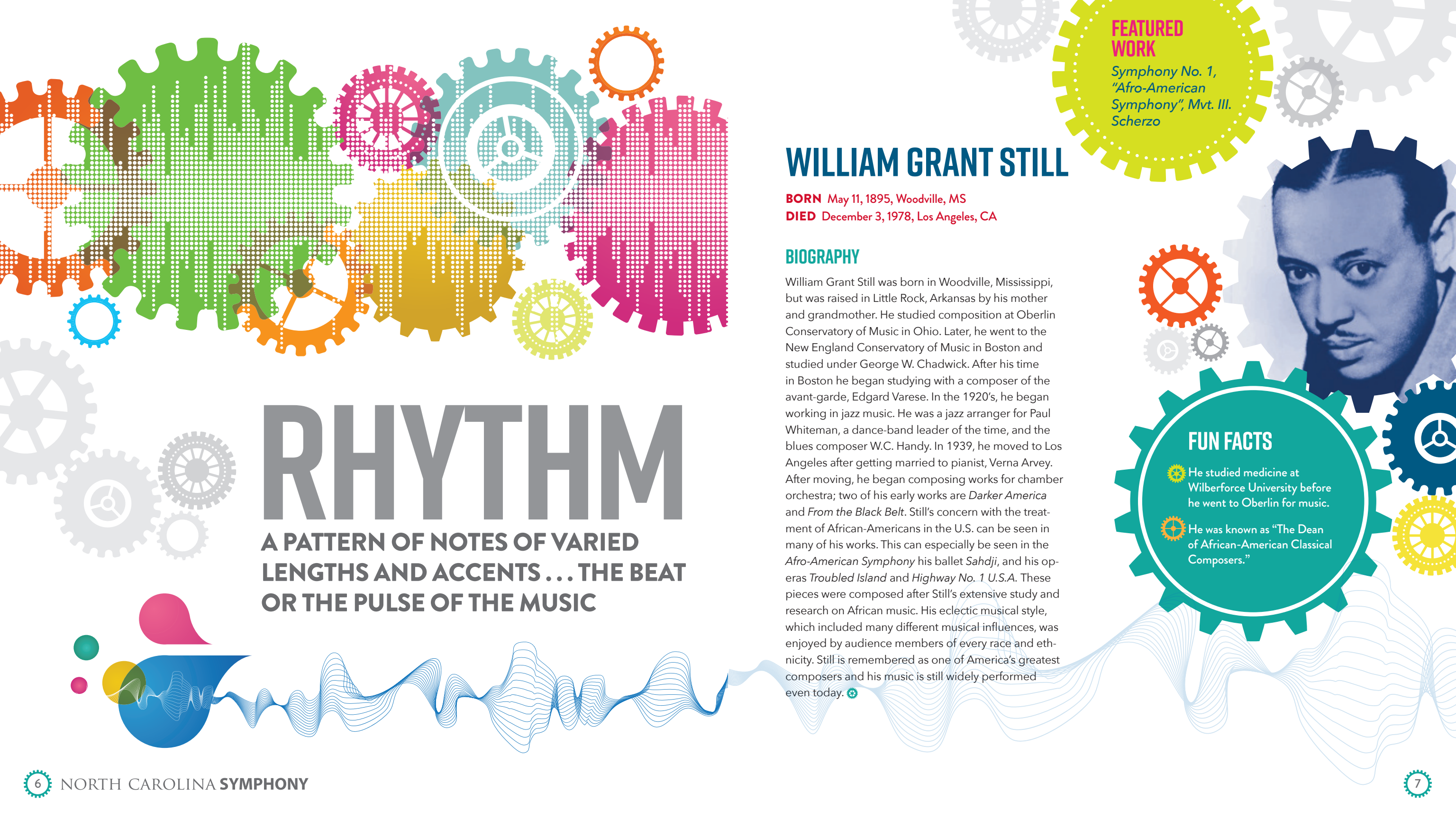
*Symphony No. 8,  
Mvt. II. Allegretto  
Scherzando*

## FUN FACTS

- Beethoven was known for having a hot temper and occasionally lashing out at his fans.
- He was very fond of nature and often took long walks in the countryside to find inspiration.
- More than 20,000 people lined the streets of Vienna for Beethoven's funeral procession.

# DYNAMICS

THE SOFTNESS OR LOUDNESS OF THE SOUND



# RHYTHM

A PATTERN OF NOTES OF VARIED LENGTHS AND ACCENTS ... THE BEAT OR THE PULSE OF THE MUSIC

## WILLIAM GRANT STILL

**BORN** May 11, 1895, Woodville, MS

**DIED** December 3, 1978, Los Angeles, CA

### BIOGRAPHY

William Grant Still was born in Woodville, Mississippi, but was raised in Little Rock, Arkansas by his mother and grandmother. He studied composition at Oberlin Conservatory of Music in Ohio. Later, he went to the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston and studied under George W. Chadwick. After his time in Boston he began studying with a composer of the avant-garde, Edgard Varese. In the 1920's, he began working in jazz music. He was a jazz arranger for Paul Whiteman, a dance-band leader of the time, and the blues composer W.C. Handy. In 1939, he moved to Los Angeles after getting married to pianist, Verna Arvey. After moving, he began composing works for chamber orchestra; two of his early works are *Darker America* and *From the Black Belt*. Still's concern with the treatment of African-Americans in the U.S. can be seen in many of his works. This can especially be seen in the *Afro-American Symphony* his ballet *Sahdji*, and his operas *Troubled Island* and *Highway No. 1 U.S.A.* These pieces were composed after Still's extensive study and research on African music. His eclectic musical style, which included many different musical influences, was enjoyed by audience members of every race and ethnicity. Still is remembered as one of America's greatest composers and his music is still widely performed even today.

### FEATURED WORK

*Symphony No. 1, "Afro-American Symphony", Mvt. III. Scherzo*

### FUN FACTS

- He studied medicine at Wilberforce University before he went to Oberlin for music.
- He was known as "The Dean of African-American Classical Composers."



# ARAM KHACHATURIAN

**BORN** June 6, 1903, Tbilisi, Georgia  
**DIED** May 1, 1978, Moscow, Russia

## BIOGRAPHY

Aram Khachaturian was one of the most influential musicians of the 20th century. His works are widely performed on renowned theater stages, concert platforms, and even in the media on the radio, television, and cinema. He was born in Kodzhori (modern day Tbilisi) to an Armenian family of bookbinders. At that time in Tbilisi, there was a Russian Musical Society (RMC), a musical school, and an Italian Opera Theatre. These were often visited by celebrated cultural representatives such as Fyodor Shalyapin, Sergei Rachmaninov, and Konstantin Igumnov. Despite his early musical interest, he did not study music until he was nineteen. In 1922, after arriving in Moscow, he enrolled in a cello class at Gnesin Music School and received a degree in biology from the Department of Physics and Mathematics at Moscow State University. His musical abilities grew quickly, and he soon became one of the best students. He was granted an opportunity to perform in the Small and Grand Halls of the Moscow Conservatory. In 1925, his career as a composer began when his school opened a composition class. Shortly thereafter, he was admitted into the Moscow National Conservatory. During his career Khachaturian received many distinguished honors, including membership in the Armenian Soviet Republic's Academy of Sciences, Honorary Academician of the Italian Music Academy "Santa Cecilia" (1960), honorary professor of Mexican Conservatory (1960), corresponding member of the Academy of Arts of German Democratic Republic (1960), and the titles of Professor and Doctor of Art Criticism (1965).

### FEATURED WORK

*Waltz from Masquerade Suite*

### FUN FACTS

- Khachaturian thought of becoming a doctor or engineer before he became a professional musician.
- Khachaturian "Russianized" his name to Khachaturov for eighteen years.
- Khachaturian was one of the few composers whose first instrument was the tuba.



# TEXTURE

THE OVERALL SOUND OF THE  
INSTRUMENTS THAT ARE PLAYING  
... HOW THE MUSIC FEELS



# TEMPO

THE SPEED OF THE MUSIC...  
HOW FAST OR HOW SLOW

## JOHANNES BRAHMS

**BORN** May 7, 1833, Hamburg, Germany

**DIED** April 3, 1897, Vienna, Austria

### BIOGRAPHY

Johannes Brahms was born on May 7, 1833, in Hamburg, Germany. His father was a musician and his mother was a seamstress. He composed during an era of music history called the Romantic period. He respected famous composers who came before him, including Haydn, Mozart, and Beethoven, and had a particular admiration for Johann Sebastian Bach's music.

Brahms showed his musical talents early on. He began playing piano at age seven and helped to supplement his family's income by playing in restaurants and theaters. Brahms also learned to play cello when he was young, but had to stop when his cello teacher stole his instrument! As a teenager, young Johannes was already conducting choirs and later became a successful choral and orchestra conductor. By the age of 19, Brahms was well-known as a pianist and played a concert tour of Europe.

Brahms met many famous musicians while traveling on his concert tours. While playing piano for Hungarian violinist Eduard Remenyi in 1853, he met the famous violinist Joseph Joachim and the composer Franz Liszt. He was also lifelong friends with famed Viennese waltz composer Johann Strauss, Jr. Remenyi introduced Brahms to Hungarian folk music and its rhythms and melodies. Brahms later used them in his music, including his 12 Hungarian Dances. They helped spread his name to a wider audience than his other music had.

### FUN FACTS

- In his later years, Brahms's appearance was very recognizable as he had a long beard and large frame, which was the opposite of his thin figure and smooth cheeks as a youth. Brahms did not grow his beard until he was 45 years old.
- Brahms was extremely critical of his music and destroyed musical scores and sketches which he thought were not his best work.
- Although Brahms was quiet and shy, he had many friends, and even though he was not married, he was known as a favorite "uncle" to many of his friends' children.

### FEATURED WORK

*Hungarian Dance No. 6*



# AARON COPLAND

**BORN** November 14, 1900, Brooklyn, New York City, NY  
**DIED** December 2, 1990, Sleepy Hollow, NY

## BIOGRAPHY:

Aaron Copland was the son of Jewish immigrants from Poland and Lithuania who came to America in search of a better life. Copland learned to play the piano at a relatively young age and regularly attended orchestra performances in New York City. Although this experience inspired him to pursue a career in music, he wanted to learn more in Europe before beginning his life as a composer. When he turned 20, Copland moved to Paris to study music under Nadia Boulanger, a very famous composer and piano teacher. There he began to develop his personal style. Copland wanted to create a distinctively American style of music, influenced by the jazz and pop he had grown up with on the streets of New York City. Although Copland's earlier music was often far too complex for audiences to appreciate, he eventually found a style that audiences loved. He became most famous for his ballets such as *Billy the Kid* and *Rodeo*. He loved the American Western style and produced many songs for movie soundtracks. He even won an Oscar® for his movie score for *The Heiress*.

## FUN FACTS

- Before he became a composer, Copland worked as a pianist at a resort entertaining guests.
- Copland once taught as a professor at Harvard University in Boston, Massachusetts.
- Throughout the course of his career, Copland received over 30 honorary degrees.

## FEATURED WORK

*Variations on a Shaker Hymn*

# FORM

HOW THE SECTIONS OF MUSIC  
ARE PUT TOGETHER...  
THE STRUCTURE

# MELODY

THE MAIN IDEA OF THE MUSIC ...  
THE LINE THAT YOU WALK AWAY SINGING

## TERRY MIZESKO

**BORN** September 21, 1954, Morehead City, NC

### BIOGRAPHY

A multi-talented musician, Terry Mizesko played bass trombone with the North Carolina Symphony from 1971-2017. Mizesko is a native of Morehead City, North Carolina and a graduate of East Carolina University. There he studied composition and trombone with Gregory Kosteck and Eugene Narmour. Mizesko has conducted the North Carolina Chamber Players, the Governor's School Wind Ensemble, the Raleigh Youth Symphony, and the Duke University Wind Symphony. He also appeared as guest conductor with the Charlotte Symphony in education concerts. Mizesko taught trombone for more than 20 years at several area schools including Duke University, UNC-Chapel Hill and St. Augustine's College. He now devotes much of his time to composition and his family.

**FEATURED  
WORK**  
"The Longleaf  
Pine"

### FUN FACTS

- Mizesko's two children are his inspiration for writing music for kids.
- He enjoys minor league baseball, especially the Durham Bulls and Carolina Mudcats.
- He's played with every music director the North Carolina Symphony has ever had, with the exception of its founder.

## The Longleaf Pine

Arr. Terry Mizesko

Soprano Recorder

Here's to the land of the long leaf pine, The sum-mer land where the sun doth shine where the weak grow strong and the

S. Rec.

strong grow great Here's to the Old North State

## The Longleaf Pine

An Anthem for the State of North Carolina

Melody by Philip T. Fisher

Arranged and orchestrated by Terry Mizesko

Andante Maestoso

Soprano

Here's to the land of the long-leaf pine, The sum-mer land where the

S

sun doth shine where the weak grow strong and the strong grow great Here's to the old North State! Here's to the land of

S

Maid-ens fair, — Where friends are true and cold hearts rare, Where south-ern moss and jes-sa-mine fair, be—

S

neath the pines— of the Old North State! Where ga-lax grows, rho-do-den-drons glows and ea-gles fly— in the

S

"Land of the Sky" Where soars mount Mitch-ell's sum-mit great, "Down Home," the Old North State! —

S

The near land, the dear land what-ev-er— fate, The bless'd land, the best-land the Old North State! —

S

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# FINALE

ALL ELEMENTS WORK  
TOGETHER TO FORM MUSIC!



## LEONARD BERNSTEIN

**BORN** August 25, 1918, Lawrence, MA  
**DIED** October 14, 1990, New York City, NY

### BIOGRAPHY

Leonard Bernstein ("stein" rhymes with "fine") was an accomplished 20th century composer, pianist, conductor, author, lecturer, teacher, and arranger. He was born in Lawrenceville, Massachusetts, but raised in Boston by parents who were not musical. He graduated from high school with honors in 1935 and enrolled as a business major at Harvard. Since he didn't want to follow his father into the family business, he moved to New York City after graduating and tried to make a living as a musician. Bernstein quickly became discouraged in New York, but a friend helped him get a scholarship to the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia. It was at Curtis where his skill as a conductor became evident to his teachers and peers. In 1943, when he was 25 years old, he took over a performance of the New York Philharmonic when the conductor became ill. There was no

time for rehearsal, but Bernstein knew the difficult music so well that he conducted from memory and became an overnight sensation. In the next year he was in demand all over the world, conducting over 100 performances. He also became a famous composer of symphonies, ballets, concertos, and even Broadway musicals (including *West Side Story* and *Candide*). ⚙️



### FEATURED WORK

*Overture to  
Candide*



### FUN FACTS

- ⚙️ Bernstein's father wanted him to go into the family business of selling barber and beauty shop supplies.
- ⚙️ Bernstein was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Letters, and received a Kennedy Center Honor, a Grammy Award for Lifetime Achievement, nine other Grammys, two Tonys and eleven Emmys.

### NORTH CAROLINA SYMPHONY

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